



Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: **Wednesday, January 11, 2023.**

Time: **7:00 PM.**

Location: **Conducted via Remote Participation.**

To Register for this Zoom meeting:

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28359/>

Meeting ID: 834 5731 9060

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Members of the public are asked to send written comments to Laura Swan at laura.swan.TAC@gmail.com.

Additional documents regarding the below agenda items will be posted to the calendar notice on the Town's website at:

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28360/81>

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy

In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology, all participants wishing to attend via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and follow multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by telephone at (646) 876-9923 using the meeting ID provided above.

Agenda

NOTE: Times are for planning purposes only and will vary depending upon discussion. If time becomes short, some topics may be postponed to a later meeting.

- 1. 7:00 Administration – Chair (25 min).**
 - A. Notice of Remotely Conducted Meetings.
 - B. Approval of 12/14/22 meeting notes.
 - C. Update on Membership.
 - D. Correspondence.
- 2. 7:25 Public Comments (for information only, not for action) – Chair (5 min).**
- 3. 7:30 Town Issues/Activities (not already on the agenda) -- Wayne/ Corey (15 min).**
- 4. 7:45 Vote: Summer St/ Victoria Rd –Jim, Shoji (15 min).**
- 5. 8:00 Discussion: New state guidelines –Laura, Jeff, Scott (15 min).**
- 6. 8:05 Update: Thompson School --Laura (5 min).**

- 7. 8:10 Update: Gibbs School/ Rawson Rd – John, Scott, Corey (5 min).**
- 8. 8:15 Update: AHS –Jeff, Scott (5 min).**
- 9. 8:20 Update: Eastern Ave – Laura, Jeff (10 min).**
- 10.8:30 Update: Downing Square Signage – Melissa, Beth, Jeff (5 min).**
- 11.8:45 Discussion: Crosswalk safety guidelines working group – Laura (10 min).**
- 12.8:55 Discussion: Following up on recommendations – Shoji, Jeff (5 min).**
- 13.9:00 Adjourn.**

Correspondence Sent/Received from 12/10/22 to 1/6/23:

1. **“Concerns of Speeding on Highland Avenue,”** Letter from the Select Board to TAC, 12/22/22.

Next Meetings:

2/8/23 Wednesday – Zoom.

3/8/23 Wednesday – Zoom.

Attachments:

1. Governor Charles Baker’s 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Arlington Planning Department,
730 Mass Ave, Arlington MA

Date: December 14, 2021.

To: Select Board.

From: Transportation Advisory Committee.

Subject: Recommended **Summer Street and Victoria Road Crosswalk Improvements**

Memorandum

1 Background

Safety issues were raised by residents related visibility of pedestrians in this crosswalk and TAC was asked to revisit the location.

A prior TAC review resulted in expanding the No Parking zone to 40' prior to the crosswalk on the eastbound side of Summer St. Observations related to that show that 40 was insufficient to ensure safety.

2 Summary Analysis

The biggest concern is that traffic does not see pedestrians starting to cross until they are well past their safe stopping distance. There is a critical lack of visibility of the pedestrians at the curb, and the crosswalk signs and pavement markings do very little to prepare motorized vehicles to stop. These observations apply to both the Eastbound and Westbound directions of traffic on Summer St with the Eastbound direction being more severe.

On-street parking activities drastically impact sight distance as well. Parking right up to the crosswalk severely limits sight distance especially eastbound coming through the curve. The 40' no-parking area frequently has illegally parked cars blocking sight lines. Activity at the park and playing fields draw pedestrians frequently whether from the neighborhood or from people parking in the neighborhood and walking, and children are especially at risk. These observations and the analysis of the stopping sight distance are given in detail in Section 4 of this memo.

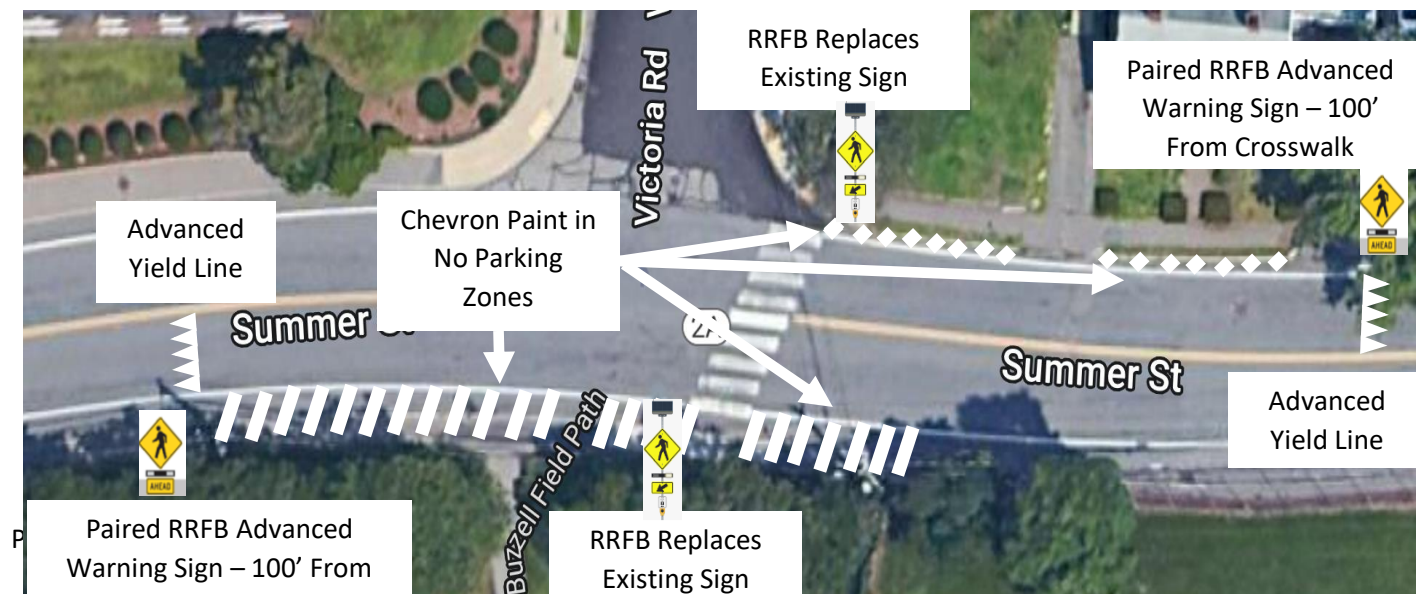
3 Recommendations

A two-pronged approach is recommended, where in the long term more costly capital improvements may be included as part of the Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway project (<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/11771/16>). In the Short term, some signage and pavement markings will provide immediate safety improvements at this crosswalk.

Summary Recommendations:

- Limited Visibility for Crosswalk Signage and Markings (4.1)
 - Replace existing signs with Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)
 - Add paired advanced warning flashing beacon signs
 - Remove the Lowell Street Detour sign on Summer St westbound
 - Trim the tree on the north side that is blocking sign visibility for eastbound drivers
 - Lower/move the No Parking signs
 - Repaint the crosswalk markings
 - Add advanced yield lines on the road
- Limited Visibility for Both Pedestrians and Drivers (4.2)
 - Eastbound - Extend the current 40' No Parking zone before the crosswalk to 100' (just beyond the telephone pole) – this removes 3 parking spots
 - Eastbound – Create a No Parking zone for 20' past the crosswalk – this removes 1 parking spot
 - Westbound – Create a No Parking zone between the driveways on either side of 37 Summer St – this removes 1 parking spot
 - Install flex posts along the all the No Parking areas
 - Paint all the No Parking areas with a white chevron pattern
 - Install No Parking signs along the No Parking areas
 - Add orange crossing flags on both sides of Summer Street
- No Posted Speed Limits and Crashes (4.3)
 - Put up a Speed Limit sign in both directions
 - Prior recommendations should increase visibility and reduce crashes
- Arlington town activities underway
 - Police and Engineering are reviewing existing regulatory signs for update
 - Engineering has initiated an update to the lighting at this intersection

Proposed intersection and crosswalk configuration based on recommendations:



4 Existing Conditions and Problem Analysis

4.1 Limited Visibility for Crosswalk Signage and Markings on Road

Crosswalk signage observations:



Crosswalk signage recommendations:

- Replace the existing crosswalk signs on both sides of Summer St with double sided Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) with down arrow signs
- Add paired advanced warning flashing beacon signs ~100' before the RRFBs
- Remove the Lowell Street Detour sign on Summer St westbound
- Trim the tree on the north side that is blocking sign visibility for eastbound drivers
- Lower/move the No Parking signs in both directions so they are not blocking the new RRFB crosswalk signs

Markings on road observations:



Markings on the road recommendations:

- Repaint the crosswalk markings
- Add an advanced yield line on the road before the crosswalks in both directions aligned with the paired advanced warning flashing beacon signs

4.2 Limited Visibility for Both Pedestrians and Drivers

Pedestrians waiting at the curb and drivers approaching the crosswalk have limited visibility - observations:

Pedestrians do not have a clear view of traffic approaching the crosswalk in either direction.



Drivers do not have a clear view of pedestrians waiting at the crosswalk in either direction.



Pictures taken from safe stopping distance and drivers position in road during game days.

Pedestrians and vehicles are not visible when pedestrians are at the curb and drivers are at the safe stopping distance for 30 mph (109 feet) - observations:



Safe Stopping Distance at 30 mph (109 feet)

Braking/Stopping Distances

MPH	PS/Sec	Braking Distance	Perception/Reaction Distance	Total Stopping Distance
10	14.7	5	22	27
15	22	11	33	44
20	29.3	19	44	63
25	36	30	55	85
30	44	43	66	109
35	51.3	59	77	136
40	58.7	76	88	164
45	66	97	99	196
50	73.3	119	110	229
55	80.7	144	121	265
60	88	172	132	304
65	95.3	202	143	345
70	102.7	234	154	388
75	110	268	165	433
80	117.3	305	176	481
85	124.7	345	187	532
90	132	386	198	584

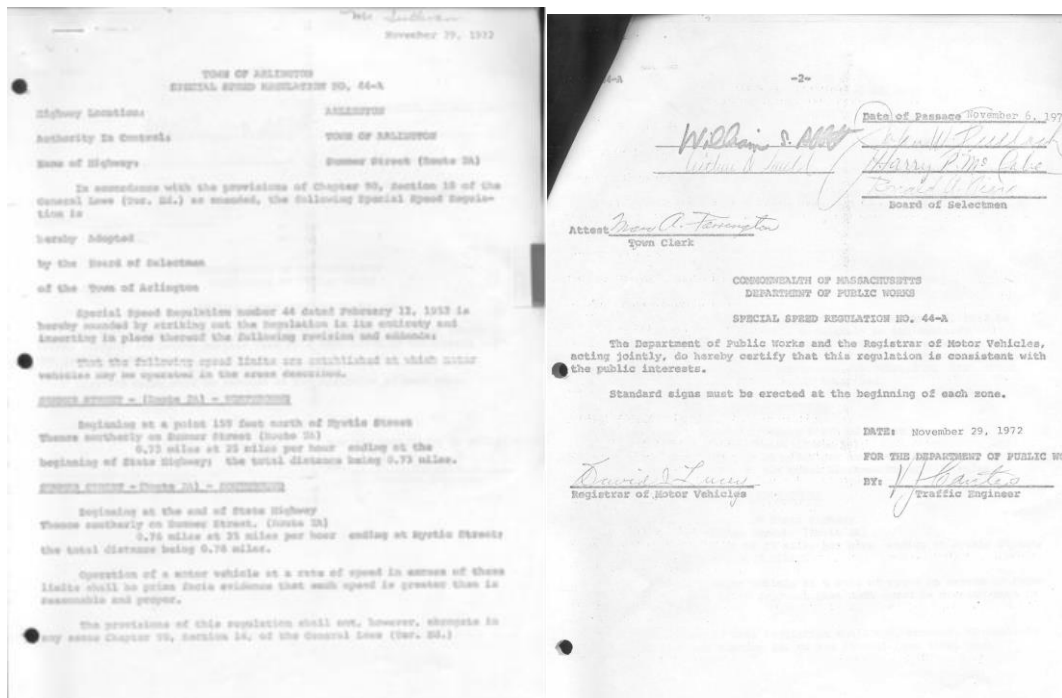
Limited visibility for both pedestrians and drivers – recommendations:

- Eastbound – Extend the current 40' No Parking zone before the crosswalk to 100' (just beyond the telephone pole) – this removes 3 parking spots
- Eastbound – Create a No Parking zone for 20' past the crosswalk – this removes 1 parking spot
- Westbound – Create a No Parking zone between the driveways on either side of 37 Summer St – this removes 1 parking spot
- Install flex posts along the both No Parking areas aligned with the edge lines of Summer Street
- Paint all the No Parking areas with a white chevron pattern to increase visibility
- Install No Parking signs along the No Parking areas
- Add orange crossing flags on both sides of Summer Street

4.3 No Posted Speed Limits and Crashes

No posted speed limit:

- There are no posted speed limit signs along Summer Street near the crosswalk
- The nearest signs which post the speed at 30 MPH are located just east of the skating rink on the eastbound side of Summer and just west of the High St rotary on the westbound side of Mystic Valley Parkway
- The Town of Arlington issued Special Speed Regulation 44-A (below) in 1972 indicating that the speed limit in both directions on Summer St between Mystic St and the start of the State Highway is 25 MPH. This covers the crosswalk at Summer and Victoria.



Crash data at the Victoria and Summer Intersection:

Crash Date	Crash Time	Crash Severity	Number of Vehicles	Manner of Collision	Vehicle Action Prior to Crash	Ambient Light	Weather Condition	Non Motorist Type
30-Apr-2016	2:29 PM	Property damage only (none injured)	2	Rear-end	V1: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V2: Travelling straight ahead	Daylight	Clear	
21-May-2016	5:12 PM	Property damage only (none injured)	2	Rear-end	V1: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V2: Travelling straight ahead	Daylight	Clear	
30-Jun-2016	8:22 AM	Not Reported	2	Rear-end	V1: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V2: Travelling straight ahead	Daylight	Clear/Clear	
25-Oct-2017	7:25 AM	Non-fatal injury	3	Rear-end	V1: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V2: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V3: Travelling straight ahead	Daylight	Rain	
09-Dec-2017	8:00 PM	Property damage only (none injured)	2	Rear-end	V1: Travelling straight ahead / V2: Slowing or stopped in traffic	Dark - lighted roadway	Snow/Sleet, hail (freezing rain or drizzle)	
01-Jun-2018	12:13 PM	Non-fatal injury	2	Angle	V1: Travelling straight ahead / V2: Turning left	Daylight	Clear	
21-Nov-2018	2:14 PM	Property damage only (none injured)	2	Rear-end	V1: Travelling straight ahead / V2: Slowing or stopped in traffic	Daylight	Clear	
23-Dec-2019	6:29 PM	Property damage only (none injured)	2	Rear-end	V1: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V2: Travelling straight ahead	Dark - lighted roadway	Clear	
22-Mar-2021	3:31 PM	Property damage only (none injured)	2	Rear-end	V1: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V2: Travelling straight ahead	Daylight	Clear	
07-Jul-2021	9:05 PM	Non-fatal injury	2	Rear-end	V1: Turning left / V2: Travelling straight ahead	Dark - lighted roadway	Rain	
13-Nov-2021	2:57 PM	Non-fatal injury	1	Angle	V1: Travelling straight ahead	Daylight	Clear	P1: Cyclist
20-May-2022	2:49 PM	Property damage only (none injured)	2	Rear-end	V1: Slowing or stopped in traffic / V2: Travelling straight ahead	Daylight	Clear	

No Posted Speed Limit and Crashes – Recommendations:

- Put up a Speed Limit sign in both directions far enough in advance of the crosswalk so as not to block other signs
- Other recommendations already made should increase visibility and reduce crashes
- Note that the Arlington Police and Engineering departments are already reviewing the existing regulatory signs on Summer Street and will request updates as needed from DPW

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

LENARD T. DIGGINS, CHAIR
DIANE M. MAHON, VICE CHAIR
JOHN V. HURD
STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY
ERIC D. HELMUTH



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Swan, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

FROM: Britton Mallard
Administrative Assistant

DATE: December 22, 2022

RE: Concerns about Speeding on Highland Avenue

The Select Board at the meeting of December 21st referred the attached to you for your review and recommendations back to the Board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

attachment

cc: Kelly Lynema, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development

From: "Len Diggins" <LDiggins@town.arlington.ma.us>
To: "Ashley Maher" <AMaher@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 12/19/2022 03:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: Concerns about speeding on Highland Ave.

From: Garo William Saraydarian <garo@mit.edu>
To: "LDiggins@town.arlington.ma.us" <LDiggins@town.arlington.ma.us>, "EHelmuth@town.arlington.ma.us" <EHelmuth@town.arlington.ma.us>, "JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us" <JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us>, "DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us" <DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us>, "SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>, "traffic@town.arlington.ma.us" <traffic@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Wed, 9 Nov 2022 02:59:19 +0000
Subject: Concerns about speeding on Highland Ave.

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Dear Town Selectmembers,

I'm writing to express my growing concern with the lack of traffic enforcement on Highland Ave. Vehicles routinely race down the street where my two children live at highway speeds. Just tonight as I was driving home on Highland a car behind me crossed the yellow line into opposite traffic, sped past me, and yelled that I was a [REDACTED] for driving too slow. No one deserves to hear that in their own neighborhood.

As I drive through neighborhoods in Belmont and Lexington I see new speed bumps being made for high traffic streets and multiple signs advising drivers to slow down as well as increased police presence. I have lived at Highland for over 10 years and think I've seen a traffic officer once, maybe twice?

This is a situation that is becoming increasingly dangerous and I look forward to hearing what concrete steps are being taken to protect the safety of our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Garo Saraydarian